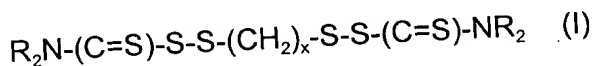




REMARKS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 - 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a, b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Traivette (U.S. Patent No. 3,979,369) or Wolpers, et al. (Dn122:135730 and Dn 120:10211). Claim 1 of the present invention claims a vulcanizable rubber compound based on diene rubbers and customary additives, comprising a vulcanizing system contained in the compounds comprising a) 0.5 to 3.8 parts by weight of compound (I)



wherein R = (C₆H₅CH₂); and X = 6; b) 0.5 to 2 parts by weight sulfur; and c) 0.5 to 3.0 parts by weight of at least one vulcanization accelerator wherein the parts by weight are given in each case with respect to 100 parts by weight of rubber. Claims 2 - 5 are dependent on Claim 1. Claim 6 claims a rubber molding with the elements of Claim 1. Claims 7 - 11 are dependent on Claim 6.

The Examiner indicates that Traivette and Wolper, et al. (Dn122:135730 and Dn 120:10211) disclose vulcanizing systems similar to the one in the claimed composition.

Traivette discloses the use of compounds of the general formula A-S-S-R-S-S-A' for the vulcanization of rubbers, wherein R constitutes almost any divalent organic radical, and A and A' constitute a very large number of accelerator radicals, which also include N-substituted thiocarbamoyl radicals amongst others. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed compounds of Formula (I) are not disclosed or suggested by Traivette.

Wolpers, et al. (Dn122:135730) discloses stable crosslinks by thioalkane vulcanization. Wolpers, et al. (Dn122:135730) differs from the present invention by disclosing, at most, 0.2 parts by weight of sulfur. In contrast, the presently claimed invention claims 0.5 to 2 parts by weight. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully



submit that the presently claimed invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Wolpers, et al. (Dn122:135730).

Wolpers, et al. (Dn 120:10211)(EPA 0 530 590 A1) discloses a method of producing vulcanized diene rubber materials with a crosslinking agent system consisting of 1 to 4.5 parts by weight of 1,2-bis (N,N-dibenzylthiocarbamoyldithio)-ethane or of 1,6-bis(N,N-dibenzylthiocarbamoyl-dithio)-hexane, 0.05 to 0.3 parts by weight sulfur and selected amounts of vulcanization accelerators. Again, the Applicants respectfully submit that Wolpers, et al. (Dn 120:10211) discloses a range of 0.05 to 0.3 parts by weight of sulfur, whereas the presently claimed invention claims a lower range of 0.5 to 2 parts by weight of sulfur. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Wolpers, et al. (Dn 120:10211)(EPA 0 530 590 A1).

For any and all of the aforementioned reasons, reconsideration and early allowance of Claims 1 - 11 is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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